

Last week, Congressman Blumenauer delivered the keynote address at the 7th Annual Seminar on “The Future of Water Supply and Management in the Pacific Northwest.” Before an audience representing Oregon and Washington municipalities, as well as members of the infrastructure lending and investment communities, Blumenauer outlined the nation-wide need for greater federal participation. Citing a report from the American Society of Engineers, Blumenauer said the nation’s current water and sewage systems rates a “D-,” with problems in the crumbling system estimated to cost individual families up to \$900 per year by the end of the decade without adequate repair.

“We’re living on borrowed time,” Blumenauer said, mentioning that some municipalities such as Cincinnati are using the same water systems that were installed over 150 years ago. He is proposing legislation to create a federal Water Trust Fund, financed by small fees on those who rely on the water system, to help local jurisdictions repair aging water systems and infrastructure. More information on the Water Trust Fund can be found [here](#) .